

All communications should be  
addressed to:

THE DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,  
Box 1433J, G.P.O., ADELAIDE  
TELEPHONE: 83 6911.



## COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

### CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEASON 1962-63

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from 4,600 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

#### AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Reports last March indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 2,634,000 acres of wheat, 1,154,000 acres of barley, and 969,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,638,000 acres to wheat - a slight increase over the intended area, 1,121,000 acres to barley - a small decrease on that intended, and 894,000 acres to oats - approximately 92 per cent of that intended.

Estimates indicate that despite the somewhat lower rainfall over agricultural areas in 1962-63 the yields per acre of wheat, barley, and oats, were similar to those obtained in 1961-62. The areas planted to wheat for grain and oats for grain were greater than in 1961-62, while the area sown to barley for grain was smaller, and total yields of each grain will show corresponding changes.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley, and oats, is 60,898,000 bushels, slightly greater than the 1961-62 yield of 59,537,000 bushels but considerably less than the record yield of 100,107,000 bushels in 1960-61. Estimates indicate that the harvest for the 1962-63 season will yield approximately 37,759,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 14.65 bushels per acre, 17,409,000 bushels of barley at 16.33 bushels per acre, and 5,730,000 bushels of oats at 13.91 bushels per acre. These estimated average yields per acre are somewhat below the averages of 18.12 bushels per acre of wheat, 21.82 bushels of barley, and 15.86 bushels of oats, obtained for the ten seasons 1952-53 to 1961-62 inclusive.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST : SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1962-63

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	2,638	2,577	37,759	14.65
Barley	1,121	1,066	17,409	16.33
Oats	894	412	5,730	13.91
Field Peas	34	32	434	13.56
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal Hay	136	-	144	1.06

#### SEASONAL CONDITIONS

The preliminary estimate of average rainfall over agricultural areas for the first three months of the growing season (April to June 1962) is 4.19 inches compared with 7.03 inches in 1960, when conditions were very good, and 1.09 inches in the same period of 1959 when the rainfall was far below average. The satisfactory opening rains were followed by light rains in July, August, and September (3.52 inches) and very good rains in October (2.22 inches), but in November, when the agricultural areas received an average of only 0.34 inches, hot winds had an adverse effect on cereal crops.

Preliminary figures for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April-November 1962 total 10.27 inches. For the same period the mean for 57 years ended 1961 is 12.77 inches.



- 2 -

CEREAL HARVESTS 1958-59 to 1962-63

Tables 2 to 5 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay, for 1962-63 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

WHEAT

The estimated area sown to wheat for grain for the 1962-63 season (2,577,000 acres) is the largest since the 1939-40 season when 2,734,595 acres were sown. The estimated crop is, with the exception of that for the 1960-61 season, the largest since 1939-40 when 41,071,696 bushels were harvested. The anticipated yield per acre of 14.65 bushels is more than 3 bushels less than the average yield of 18.12 bushels for the ten seasons 1952-53 to 1961-62.

TABLE 2 - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	Estimate 1962-63
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,460	1,605	2,027	2,270	2,638
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,407	1,549	1,969	2,229	2,577
Yield	'000 Bushels	32,032	11,929	46,396	33,854	37,759
Yield per Acre	Bushels	22.76	7.70	23.56	15.19	14.65

BARLEY

The estimated area sown to barley for grain for the 1962-63 season is smaller than that for the six preceding seasons and the yield per acre (estimated at 16.33 bushels) is considerably lower than the average of 21.82 for the ten most recent seasons.

TABLE 3 - BARLEY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	Estimate 1962-63
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,367	1,326	1,588	1,294	1,121
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,332	1,290	1,556	1,271	1,066
Yield	'000 Bushels	37,664	11,857	42,233	21,292	17,409
Yield per Acre	Bushels	28.27	9.19	27.15	16.75	16.33

OATS

The estimated area of oats sown for grain for the 1962-63 season (412,000 acres) is, with the exception of the previous year, the lowest since the 1954-55 season when the area sown was 339,640 acres. The estimated yield per acre of 13.91 bushels is a little less than the average for the seasons 1952-53 to 1961-62 of 15.86 bushels.

TABLE 4 - OATS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	Estimate 1962-63
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	845	813	907	630	894
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	481	505	512	324	412
Yield	'000 Bushels	11,992	2,504	11,478	4,391	5,730
Yield per Acre	Bushels	24.93	4.95	22.41	13.57	13.91



- 3 -

CEREAL HAY

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in recent years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the quantity shown as estimated in these bulletins.

TABLE 5 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	Estimate 1962-63
Area Sown	'000 Acres	228	187	219	125	136
Yield	'000 Tons	380	130	352	156	144
Yield per Acre	Tons	1.66	0.69	1.61	1.26	1.06

FIELD PEAS

It is estimated that the area of field peas planted for grain during the 1962-63 season was 32,000 acres. The estimated yield is 434,000 bushels representing an average of 13.56 bushels per acre. In the 1961-62 season 256,000 bushels were obtained from 29,000 acres. Record production is 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) achieved in 1956-57.

J.G. MILLER

ACTING DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics,  
ADELAIDE. S.A.  
25th January 1963.

